

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

AID-05 SAB-01 COME-00 AGR-05 INT-05 SIL-01 LAB-04

OES-03 SNM-02 DEAE-00 HEW-02 /091 W
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R 312117Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9997

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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TAGS PFOR CO VE

SUBJ: ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE SANTA MARTA MTG

REF BOGOTA 7185, 7162, 7150

1. THE PRESENCE OF PANAMA CHIEF OF STATE TORRIJOS AT THE SUMMIT MTG IN SANTA MARTA JULY 28 AND 29 WAS MORE SYMBOLIC THAN SUBSTANTIVE. COLOMBIAN PRES LOPEZ AND VENEZUELAN PRES PEREZ MADE THE RIGHT NOISES FROM THE PANAMIAN AND LA POINT OF VIEW CONCERNING THE "JUST ASPIRATIONS" OF PANAMA TO REGAIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL PANAMANIAN TERRITORY. AND TORRIJOS' PRESENCE UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA, NO DOUBT REPRESENTING THE VIEWS OF MOST OTHER LA COUNTRIES, VIEW THE SUCCESSFUL END TO THE US-PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CANAL AND THE IMPACT THAT THIS WILL HAVE ON FUTURE US-LA RELATIONS.

2. IN THE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE REIGNING DURING THE SANTA MARTA MTG,
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THE US WAS SUBJECTED TO ONLY A FEW BARBS, 3.G., THE

MONROE DOCTRINE WAS NOT INTENDED TO "CONSECRATE THE
S
SUPREMACY OF THE US OVER THE REST OF AMERICA," (LOPEZ),
THE PANAMANIAN PUBLIC CANNOT "BE ASKED TO REMAIN
CALM WHEN THE US DELAYS NEGOTIATIONS WITH NO
EXPLANATION" (TORRIJOS). MOST PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THE LEADERS
FOCUSED ON ISSUES.

3. ALTHOUGH PRES LOPEZ RAISED EXPECTATIONS AMONG
COLOMBIANS AND ANXIETIES AMONG VENEZUELAN WITH HIS
CONDOMINIUM PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE GULF OF VENEZUELA ON JULY
20 AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE ORDINARY SESSION OF CONGRESS,
HIS INITIATIVE PROVIDED THE MECHANISM FOR PEREZ AND LOPEZ
TO RENEW DISCUSSIONS OF THE CONFLICT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO
CALM THE SOMETIMES HOSTILE EMOTIONS THAT HAVE SURROUNDED THE ISSUE
IN BOTH COUNTRIES. THE PRESIDENTS SKIRTED THE SPECIFIC
ISSUE OF THE CONDOMINIUM IN THEIR DECLARATIONS (SEE REFS).
HOWEVER, FOLLOWING A PROLONGED MTG LATE JULY
29 THEY STATED THAT "THE RESULTS OF THE CONVERSATIONS
WOULD BE KNOWN IN THE FUTURE, BUT FOR THE TIME
BEING EVERYONE COULD SEE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN VERY
CORDIAL AND SATISFACTORY BECAUSE WE ARE SEEKING SINCERE UNDER-
STANDINGS. WE NOW HAVE TO SPEAK WITH OUR COUNTRIES TO EXPLAIN THE
UNDERSTANDINGS WE HAVE REACHED." THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT
FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE FONMINS OF EACH COUNTRY,
WITH AN INITIAL MTG PROBABLY IN BOLIVIA NEXT
WEEK. THUS THE APPEARANCE OF MOVEMENT ON THE PROBLEM HAS
BEEN CREATED.

4. OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE, VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA APPEARED
TO HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE AREA OF
COOPERATION, OR AS THEY CALLED IT, INTEGRATION. THE
AGREEMENTS TO SEEK WAYS OF REGULATING AND LEGALIZING THE
NUMEROUS COLOMBIANS ILLEGALLY LIVING AND WORKING IN
VENEZUELA, TO ELIMINATE DOUBLE TAXATION OF BUSINESSES OF
THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, TO EXPLOIT THE IRON AND COAL
RESOURCES IN A COORDINATED MANNER SO AS TO STIMULATE
THE STEEL INDUSTRY IN BOTH COUNTRIES, AND TO PROMOTE THE
SUGAR INDUSTRY ALONG THEIR COMMON BORDER, IF ACTUALLY PUT
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INTO PRACTICE, ALL ARE POSITIVE STEPS. THE MEASURES COULD REDUCE AREAS
OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES
AND INCREASE COOPERATION.

5. FINALLY, THE DECLARATION OF THE THREE HEADS OF STATE SUPPORT-
ING SELA, PROPOSING A MTG OF ANDEAN PACT MINS FINAN,
AND, OF EVEN MORE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCE, UDECIDING TO
JOINTLY SEEK MEANS OF RAISING NUTRITIONAL LEVELS OF THEIR

CITIZENS, FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING, AND COMBAT AFTOSA ARE
POTENTIALLY PRAISEWORTHY INITIATIVES.

6. ALL IN ALL, THE SANTA MARTA MTG APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN
DOMINATED BY SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN RHETORIC. VAKY

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